

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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R 150102Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IN, PFOR

SUBJECT:HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. AP HARCOS/FLETCHER "STATUS REPORT" ARTICLE FEBRUARY 13  
BASED ON QUERIES TO DEPARTMENT BY SPENCER DAVIS.

2. TEXT OF OUR FEBRUARY 12 GUIDANCE, FURNISHED TO DAVIS,  
FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF HARCOS AND FLETCHER IN  
CALCUTTA?

ANSWER: BOTH HARCOS AND FLETCHER REMAIN IN A PRIVATE  
APARTMENT IN CALCUTTA UNDER POLICE GUARD. THE FORMAL  
BEGINNING OF THEIR TRIAL HAS BEEN DELAYED PENDING THE  
RESOLUTION OF PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE APPEALS REGARDING  
THE CASE. AN AMERICAN LAWYER HAS BEEN IN CALCUTTA FOR  
NEARLY TWO MONTHS WORKING WITH INDIAN DEFENSE COUNSEL.  
AT LASTREPORT THE MORALE AND HEALTH OF BOTH MEN WERE GOOD.

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OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN CALCUTTA AND EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE CLOSELY AND  
HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OUR  
POSITION THAT THE MEN SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL QUICKLY.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

ANSWER: THE TWO MEN HAVE BEEN CHARGED UNDER THE OFFICIAL  
SECRETS ACT, AND THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE  
ANY CHARGES PUBLIC. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SINCE  
TRIALS UNDER THE INDIAN OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT ARE IN  
CAMERA THE CHARGES WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. INGERSOLL

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